Under the interim coal sale policy, system of e-booking has been started from January 2007 and the prices payable by different sectors under e-booking are as follows:—

(i) Core sector consumers are being issued coal at the notified price.

(ii) The linked consumers of non core sectors are being sold coal at a premium of 20% above the notified price upto the MPQ.

(iii) NCCF and States are being given coal at 20% above the notified price.

(iv) Other customers procuring coal through e-booking route are being sold coal at the premium of 30% above the notified price.

Illegal mining in various States

1030. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal coal mining has been going on unchecked in areas touching West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand like Asansol and has caused cracks in the highways,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of coal extracted illegally during the last three years and the responsibility fixed on those who failed to check this illegal mining; and

(d) the steps taken to stop this illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Cases of illegal mining are detected predominantly in the eastern region, mainly in the States of Jharkhand, covering BCCL, CCL and ECL, and West Bengal, covering ECL and BCCL.

The main reasons for illegal mining activities are densely populated coal bearing areas and adverse socio-economic conditions.

(c) Illegal mining takes place stealthily and clandestinely both inside and outside leasehold areas of CI L subsidiaries. As such it is not possible to quantify the exact amount of coal, which was extracted illegally during

last three years. However, the quantity of coal seized from illegally worked-out patches during last three years in given below:

Company	Quantity Seized (Tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	2625.00	1331.97	2481.00
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	363.00	120.50	639.31
Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	128.00	428.00	532.50
Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	74.00	144.00	26.50
South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)	43.00	955.65	42.50
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCI)	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Eastern Coalfields Limited (NECL)	0.00	600.00	0.00
TOTAL:	3233.00	3580.12	3721.81

(d) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Coal has been constituted to look into the issues related to illegal mining of coal. The Committee has held two meetings so far with the representatives of Govt, of Jharkhand Govt, of West Bengal, Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries.

In addition, the following steps are taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining:

(i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.

(ii) Concrete walls have been created on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.

(iii) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites alongwith displaying of signboads mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place".

(iv) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones which are not required to be mined.

(v) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same of taking preventice action.

(vi) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

(vii) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.

(viii) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

Relocation of Jharia city, Jharkhand

†1031. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any draft scheme from the State Government regarding relocation of Jharia city of Jharkhand to another place, which is facing the problem of underground fire in coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the view point of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In the Master Plan for dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation in the lease hold areas of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) updated in July, 2006, there is no proposal for relocation of main Jharia town due to mine fire. However/there are 595 sites located all over the BCCL leasehold area in Jharia Coalfield which have been identified to be affected due to fire and subsidence. As per the updated Master Plan, the implementation of the scheme is to be taken up in phased manner in ten years period excluding 2 years of pre-implementation activity.

Acquisition of foreign coal mines

t1032. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a special company for acquisition of foreign coal mines;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi